

Foreword

This book, which is one volume in the *Toyo Bunko Research Library*, is the revised and abridged English edition of *Sōshuken no sekaishi: Tōzai Ajia no kindai to hon'yaku gainen* 宗主権の世界史：東西アジアの近代と翻訳概念 (A World History of Suzerainty: A Modern History of East and West Asia and Translated Concepts), edited by Okamoto Takashi and published by the University of Nagoya Press in 2014.

Soon after publication, we were very pleased to learn that the original version had found acclaim in academic circles in Japan and overseas, and it frequently became the subject of discussion in joint review meetings and study groups. Among others, we received valuable feedback at meetings held at the Institute for North East Asian Research, University of Shimane (Hamada, November 2014); the Graduate School of International Cultural Studies, Tōhoku University (Sendai, June 2015); the Department of Korean History, College of Liberal Arts, Korea University (Seoul, South Korea, August 2015); and the Historiographical Institute, University of Tokyo (Tokyo, October 2015).

Moreover, even at English-language international academic conferences, including the New York Conference on Asian Studies (NYCAS) 2015 (16–17 October 2015, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY, USA) and the World International Studies Committee (WISC) at the 5th Global International Studies Conference (1–3 April 2017, National Taiwan University, Taipei), panels of paper contributors discussed and debated this publication.

At the same time, new research findings also emerged from this process, for example, those of Koketsu [2016] and Okamoto [2017]. Based on these new findings, we have edited and published this new English version to share the results of our research with the wider world. Toward this end, we have translated into English the rewritings of all the original papers, and we hope this book will serve to enable discussion on Asian perspectives on world history.

A great many people, beginning with the paper contributors, helped us in the editing and publication of this book. In particular, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Shiba Yoshinobu (Executive Librarian, Toyo Bunko) for his unfaltering support and advice, and to Dr. Ozawa Ichirō (the English Publications Manager, Research Department, Toyo Bunko) for his extensive guidance. We would also like to express our gratitude to Messrs. Thomas P. Barrett and Joseph Williams for their work on the English translation and for their help in revisions to the book.